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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Charleston, Illinois

# news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BOG APPROVES HONORARY DEGREE TO WRIGHT

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's recommendation to award an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree to Robert T. Wright of Lincolnshire was approved by the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities at its meeting in University Park Thursday (July 20).

Wright, a lawyer and inventor whose development of the shorthand machine has been proven an invaluable asset to his profession, will receive his honorary degree during Eastern's Summer Commencement Ceremonies scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, August 6.

Wright was in private law practice for two years before joining the U.S. Securities Exchange Commission where he advanced through the ranks from Junior Attorney to Assistant Regional Administrator.

He left public service in 1948 to become Vice President and later President of Stenographic Machines, Inc., a firm founded by his father. He then coupled his courtroom knowledge and experience with his inventive and mechanical aptitudes to develop six patents for shorthand machines and the first computerized transcription equipment, now used almost universally to record courtroom proceedings.

"Wright is a man of many talents--lawyer, inventor, business executive, public servant, community leader, innovator, and philanthropist," said Dr. Ted Ivarie, Dean of Eastern's Lumpkin College of Business, who nominated Wright.

The candidate was recommended by the Faculty Committee on Honorary Degrees.

"He rose from humble beginnings to great success and his commitment to education and public service should be recognized by higher education in Illinois," said Ivarie.

Wright earned his bachelor's degree from Carleton College in 1931 where he participated in the development of sound movies and automatic transmission engines.